Braintree & Bocking
URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT

OF THE

ACTING

Medical Officer of Health

J. S. RANSON
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1953

TOGETHER WITH THE

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

W. H. Root, Printer, Halstead

BRAINTREE and BOCKING

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health and Housing Committee

H. W. METSON, Esq., Chairman

J. ARNOLD, Esq., Vice-Chairman

F. APPLETON, Esq.

C. C. HYMAS, Esq.

F. RUSHWORTH, Esq.

F. D. PEARSALL, Esq.

F. M. SELF, Esq.

F. MARTIN, Esq.

E. C. P. BRAND, Esq., J.P., ex-officio

G. P. KING, Esq., ex-officio

Public Health Officers

Acting Medical Officer of Health

J. S. RANSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

S. F. BAYLEY, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Foods

Additional Sanitary Inspector

J. F. LEAH, M.S.I.A.
Certificated Inspector of Meat and Foods

Clerical Assistant

H. CHILDS

Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree.
July, 1954.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Pending the appointment of a Medical Officer of Health for your District, I am continuing to act in that capacity. The question as to the advisability of uniting to make the areas served by such Officers larger is still under discussion.

The year has been one of good health and there has been no noteworthy outbreak of infectious disease.

The programme for the building of Council Houses has been carried out.

Recently, two Circulars from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government have been received which should, to some extent, alter the housing policy of the future.

The first, regarding Slum Clearance, withdraws advice previously given to Councils regarding concentrating on building new houses in preference to reconstruction of old houses. It states that the Government's policy is that Local Authorities should now take up again, as a matter of urgency, the campaign of Slum Clearance and should, for this purpose, review the housing conditions of their areas and submit proposals of measures to be taken as quickly as possible. The new Housing Bill will give guidance on matters to be taken into consideration in determining whether a house is, or is not, unfit for human habitation and the procedure for making clearance orders and the compulsory purchase order of land in or surrounded by, or adjoining a Clearance Area. Local Authorities will be empowered to defer the demolition of unfit houses in certain circumstances, if satisfied that the houses are, or can be made, capable of providing accommodation of a standard adequate for the time being.

The second Circular concerns grants for the improvement or conversion of housing accommodation. In it the Minister reminds Councils that the Government desires to give every possible encouragement to Local Authorities and private owners who wish to modernise and make better use of existing houses by improvement or conversions. Works of improvement or conversion need no longer be reckoned as a part of the Local Authority's approved programme of new house building. In future, Local Authorities may themselves give approval to applications for grants submitted to them by private owners, and it is now no longer necessary to refer such applicants to the Ministry's Regional Officer.

The Minister has decided that it would be helpful to Local Authorities, owners and all concerned, if the requirements for

such work were revised to exclude or modify those which it would be unreasonable to make an absolute condition of grant.

The revised requirements are:

The dwelling must, after improvement or conversion:—

(i) be in a good state of repair and substantially free from damp;

(ii) have each room properly lighted and ventilated;

(iii) have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on inside the dwelling;

(iv) be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes;

(v) have an internal or otherwise readily accessible water closet;

(vi) have a fixed bath (or shower) preferably in a separate room;

(vii) be provided with a sink or sinks and with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water;

(viii) have a proper drainage system;

(ix) be provided in each room with adequate points for gas or electric lighting (where reasonably available);

(x) be provided with adequate facilities for heating;

(xi) have satisfactory facilities for storing, preparing and cooking food;

(xii) have proper provision for the storage of fuel (where required).

The Circular points out that, in relation to an application for grant from a private owner, his financial resources are wholly irrelevant to the question whether or not an improvement grant should be made.

In considering a scheme for improvement or conversion submitted for grant, the Minister thinks there is only one question which may be properly asked, namely, whether it will produce a satisfactory modernised dwelling or dwellings complying with the statutory conditions and the specified requirements.

The Minister has decided to reduce the minimum figure of cost from £150 to £100, but the maximum grant will remain at the figure of £400. The Minister may however, on application, waive the limit for any individual scheme.

Reasonable expenditure on professional fees of architects, surveyors and engineers may, from now on, be taken into account for all purposes.

These two Circulars clearly point out the path to the solving of the housing problem. With reference to Slum Clearance those

Authorities that have completed a housing survey must be aware of its extent. Those that have had no proper survey cannot be so without making one. Decisions must be come to as to which areas must be dealt with as Clearance Areas and which houses must be dealt with individually. The Local Authority must also decide which sites will be acquired by them and used for re-development or retention as open spaces. As directed in the Circular, some houses marked for ultimate demolition must be made reasonably good for habitation for a specified number of years.

With regard to the Circular on grants for improvements and conversions, encouragement or even some form of persuasion may to some extent alleviate the question of Slum Clearance and help to satisfy the demand for houses having up to date amenities.

It seems probable that owner-occupiers may be readily willing to apply for the grants. Employers of agricultural workers find that the offer of a tenancy of a modernised house greatly facilitates their chance of obtaining suitable employees. Therefore, they too, may welcome the assistance now offered. Owners of property to let may, on the other hand, find the offer less attractive, except perhaps in districts where new public services are being provided with forthcoming inducements to connect.

Improvements and conversions will vary from perhaps the converting of an extra bedroom into a bathroom to most extensive re-building and extensions. Beyond all this work, there must still remain many existing small houses that will not come into Slum Clearance areas and will not be the subjects of applications for improvement grant. These, in the future, will be the only houses that can be let at low rents. They may not have such amenities as bathrooms and water laid on inside the house, but, provided that their structure is sound and is maintained in a sound condition, such houses, chiefly owing to their low rents, have still a useful part to play as dwellings.

In conclusion, it must be realised that it is now the Government's intention that Local Authorities shall forthwith submit proposals for dealing with all of the bad house property in their districts.

I would like to record my appreciation to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation, and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during 1953.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. RANSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

	Braintree and Bocking U.D.C.	England and Wales
Area (in acres)	6,811	
Population (Registrar-General's estimate) ...	17,710	
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	5,834	
Rateable value	£106,975	
Sum represented by a penny rate	£415	

	Total	Male	Female		
Live Births Legitimate ...	280	150	130		
Illegitimate ...	23	10	13		
Still Births	3	3	—		
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population				17.1	15.5
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.01				17.3	
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 (live & still births) ...				9.8	22.4
Deaths (Registrar General's estimate)				205	
Death Rate per 1,000 resident population ...				11.5	11.4
Death Rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.85				9.8	
Deaths of infants under one year of age ...				6	
Death Rate of infants under one year of age (per 1,000 live births)				19.8	26.8
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				21.4	
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				0	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)				31	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)				0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...				0	

Deaths at Various Age Groups during 1953

(Registered and Transferred)

Age Group	Registered	No. of Deaths Transferred
Under one year	3	3
1 and under 2 years	—	—
2 and under 5 years	1	—
5 and under 15 years	—	1
15 and under 25 years	1	—
25 and under 35 years	1	2
35 and under 45 years	3	1
45 and under 55 years	9	6
55 and under 65 years	26	5
65 and under 75 years	56	5
75 and upwards	72	10
Totals ...	172	33

Deaths from all Causes, 1953

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the Classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

		Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningoeoccal Infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	6
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16.	Diabetes	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	12
18.	Coronary disease, angina	26	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	2	2
20.	Other heart disease	14	19
21.	Other circulatory disease	5	7
22.	Influenza	6	1
23.	Pneumonia	9	5
24.	Bronchitis	5	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	—	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1
31.	Congenital malformations	—	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	13
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
34.	All other accidents	1	3
35.	Suicide	3	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	All Causes	112	93

2. PREVALENCE and CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Disease notified in 1953.

	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	5	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	54	—	—
Measles ...	214	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	—
Dysentery ...	1	1	—
Paratyphoid ...	3	3	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	5	—	—
Acute Pneumonia ...	1	1	—
Totals ...	284	7	—

Tuberculosis Cases Notified during 1953.

Age Group	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5 years	—	—	—	—
5 and under 10 years	—	1	—	—
10 and under 15 years	—	—	—	—
15 and under 20 years	—	—	—	—
20 and under 25 years	—	—	—	—
25 and under 35 years	4	5	—	1
35 and under 45 years	1	1	—	—
45 and under 55 years	1	—	—	—
55 and under 65 years	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	9	8	—	1

Of these cases 2 were of cases re-notified on taking up residence in this District.

Deaths from Tuberculosis:

Pulmonary	Male	1
	Female	1
Non-pulmonary ...	Male	—
	Female	—
	Total	2

Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree.
July, 1954.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting, in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health, my report on the sanitary inspection of the Urban District for the year 1953.

The general sanitary circumstances of the area can be said to have remained satisfactory with no new major threat to the health of the community arising during the year.

A survey of approximately one hundred of the older houses in the district was carried out with the object of resuming clearance work under Part III. of the Housing Act, 1936, consistent with the ability of the Council to provide rehousing accommodation. In view of the government policy of placing more importance on the clearance of unfit houses this survey may have to be extended in order to produce a balanced five year programme.

As you will read in the section of the report dealing with water supply, the unsatisfactory odour and discolouration experienced annually with the Bocking supply and formerly regarded as an inherent defect to be endured has now been reduced to an apparently simple problem capable of reasonably easy solution. It would appear, however, that owing to delays, consumers will experience trouble again this summer.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for your interest and support and acknowledge the help and co-operation of the Medical Officer of Health, my own staff and fellow officials.

I am, Mr. Chairman, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. F. BAYLEY.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER

The public supply was obtained from the Council's deep wells at the Notley Road Waterworks and the Bocking Waterworks.

The water was chlorinated before passing into the service mains.

The public supply is not liable to have a plumbo solvent action.

The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination during the year was as follows:—

	Raw Water	Water in Supply	Total
Notley Road Waterworks	2	6	8
Bocking Waterworks	Nil	5	5

One of these samples taken before chlorination at the Braintree Works shewed the presence in small numbers of organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group. The Bacteriologist's comments on this particular sample which was also submitted for chemical analysis are given later in this section.

In July a complaint was received from a factory regarding flocculent matter and debris in the supply to their surgery. When examined macroscopically it was evident that the flocculent matter was different from that which is often associated with the Bocking supply and a sample was submitted for examination. The sample proved to be of a high standard of purity and the foreign matter was traced to defects in the factory supply pipes and fittings which were immediately corrected by the company concerned.

As in previous years complaints of odour and discolouration from consumers on the Bocking supply began to reach the health department early in July and continued throughout the summer months. During 1953 these complaints were more numerous than in the previous year and came mainly from the Church Lane Estate. The progressive increase in the number of complaints over the past few years, coinciding, as it has, with the growth of the estate and the necessity, under existing conditions, to pump more and more water directly into the mains thus by-passing the limited aeration obtainable in the Bocking tower has supported the department's view that the primary cause of the trouble is lack of oxygen in the water. This view was confirmed by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, when, after consultations between your representatives and the Laboratories, Dr. Hoather suggested that samples be taken from various points to determine the amount of oxygen in the water.

Complaints of odour and slight discolouration in respect of the Braintree supply have also increased, particularly from consumers in the London Road and Maple Avenue areas. After examining samples from both supplies Dr. Hoather has expressed the opinion that effective aeration will go a long way towards solving this problem.

The Council accepted the subsequent report and decided to improve the aeration of both water supplies, but up to the time of compiling this report the work has not been done and complaints are already being received from consumers on the Church Lane Estate.

Samples were also submitted for chemical analysis and the result of two samples are given as follows:

Sample from Notley Road Waterworks, 28.1.53.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart

from a negligible trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate; its content of mineral and saline constituents although somewhat high is not considered excessive. Its organic quality is of a high standard but the bacteriological results show the presence of organisms of the Coli-aerogenes group in small numbers.

The chemical results on this sample are normal for this source. The bacterial impurity present is comparatively slight from the aspect of treatment by chlorination.

Sample of Bocking Water in Supply, 16.6.53.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These are normal results from the Bocking supply. They are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Water Consumption in the District

The Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer has kindly supplied the following information regarding the amount of water pumped during 1953:—

	Gallons
Notley Road Waterworks	170,400,000
Bocking Waterworks	68,052,400
Total ...	238,452,400

Except for periods of insufficient pressure in certain areas on occasions the supply was adequate for the present needs of the District, and represents an overall consumption of 36.9 gallons per head per day.

At present it is estimated that 17,535 persons who occupy 5,781 houses are served by public mains.

Of these approximately 104 houses with an estimated population of 317 are served by fifty-two standpipes, forty-four of which are situated in the open. There are also a considerable number of houses served by the public mains, whose only supply is a tap situated in a washhouse entered from the yard.

There are 53 houses with private supplies, only 38 of these being piped inside.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

New sewers were constructed on the Church Lane Estate in preparation for new Council houses.

There was no alteration in the position at either the Braintree or Bocking Sewage Works during 1953.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection of household refuse continued throughout the year in all parts of the District. This service is under the control of the Surveyor.

The tip at Rifle Hill was again used for the disposal of refuse.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

(1) Number and Nature of Inspections

During the year 1953 the following inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors to the premises detailed:—

Nature of Inspections	Primary Inspections	Revisits	Total Visits
Housing—Housing Act	132	94	226
Housing—Public Health Act	58	239	297
Other Visits—Housing Act	18	18	36
Other Visits—Public Health Act	491	482	973
Infectious Diseases	11	4	15
Water Supply and Sampling	47	56	103
Dairies and Milk Distributors	9	—	9
Milk Sampling	14	—	14
Food Preparing Premises including Bakehouses	118	49	167
Food Byelaws	12	1	13
Ice Cream Premises	10	6	16
Ice Cream Sampling	24	—	24
Meat and Food Inspection:—			
(a) Slaughterhouses	872	90	962
(b) Shops	120	3	123
(c) Depot	46	1	47
(d) Markets	107	—	107
Factories Act (Power)	22	11	33
Factories Act (Non-Power)	1	4	5
Factories Act (Building Sites)	26	41	67
Shops Act	16	13	29
Drainage	61	113	174
Smoke Abatement	20	31	51
Overcrowding	4	—	4
Common Lodging House	1	—	1
Moveable and Temporary Dwellings	13	55	68
Vermin Infestations and Pest Control ...	15	19	34
Rat Infestations	31	11	42
Knackers Yard	17	—	17
Swimming Baths and Sampling	28	1	29
Interviews with Owners/Builders, Etc ...	53	—	53
Miscellaneous	142	—	142
	2539	1342	3881

(2) Notices Served, Etc.

Number of Informal Notices served	250
Number of Informal Notices complied with	214
Number of Statutory Notices served	50
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	54

(3) Sanitary Defects and Nuisances

(a) Housing	Defects Etc. Found	Work Done or Abated
Defective roofs, rainwater pipes, etc. ...	37	33
Other external defects	16	19
Damp Walls	10	9
Internal defects	23	27
(b) General		
Defective W.C.'s and W.C. structures ...	15	18
Houses with defective dustbins	150	146
Vermin infested houses	3	3
Contraventions of Factories Act	11	9
Contraventions of Shops Act	—	2
Smoke nuisances	3	1
Defects etc., in food premises	4	5
Other nuisances	2	2
Disinfection of premises following infectious disease	—	1
(c) Drainage		
Choked drains and W.C.'s	46	46
Defective drains	8	9

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

1. INSPECTION for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	18	5	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	86	33	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	23	67	9	—
Total ...	127	105	10	—

II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found	Remedied	Referred: To H.M. Inspector	Referred: By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient ...	6	6	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	10	10	—	—	—

There are thirty-five Outworkers in the District, all are engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

Smoke Abatement

Nuisances due to the emission of smoke were detected at three premises during the year.

Advice was given in each case and the trouble experienced at one factory was speedily abated.

In the case of the other two factories it was suggested to the management that they should ask the Ministry of Fuel and Power to carry out efficiency tests on the plant. This was eventually agreed to but tests had not been carried out before the end of the year although a marked improvement in the amount of smoke emitted was apparent.

Shops Act, 1950

Twenty-nine visits were made under Section 38 of this Act.

In two shops, following notices served late in 1952, additional means of heating were provided and a reasonable temperature was found to be maintained in the premises concerned.

A certificate was issued in respect of one shop, exempting that shop from the provisions of Section 38, subsections (2) and (4).

Delegation of the duties under Section 38 (4) regarding washing facilities in shops were made to this Council in December, 1953.

Moveable Dwellings

Two licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were operative during the year.

Eighteen licences were granted in respect of individual caravans for specified periods.

Sixty-eight visits were made by your inspectors to all the sites concerned.

Swimming Baths

Two open-air swimming pools, one of which is owned and operated by the Council, were in use during the year. Samples of water were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination regularly throughout the season. Field tests for available chlorine were also carried out and the filtration plants inspected in order to control the quality of the water in the pools.

With the exception of the first sample taken from the new children's swimming pool at the Council Baths, which shewed the presence of B. Coli in undesirably high numbers, all the samples taken were satisfactory and both pools were well maintained throughout the season.

Insect Pests

Three dwelling houses were found to be infested with bed bugs. These premises were either sprayed with D.D.T. solution by Council labour or the spraying carried out under the supervision of your inspectors.

One vacant house was treated for fleas and the tenants of three dwelling houses were assisted successfully to rid their premises of these pests.

Assistance was again given to the Ministry of Food by the periodic spraying of slaughterhouse cooling rooms to control flies.

Advice was also given to householders to deal with infestations of carpet beetles, ants and earwigs.

Steam Disinfector

The use of the steam disinfector at the former Isolation Hospital, Cressing Road, was continued during the year.

The plant was in operation for 10 charges, 5 for disinfection following infectious diseases and 5 charges for the cleansing of bedding and clothing.

Some of this work was done for other local authorities and public and business undertakings.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Four applications for the renewal of licences to keep a pet shop were granted for 1953.

Rodent Control

The services of a full-time rodent operator were again shared with neighbouring authorities. The Council continued the scheme for the maintenance of rodent control whereby a grant of 50 per cent. of approved net expenditure was made by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The work done during the fifteen months ending 31st March, 1954, was as follows:

Number of properties inspected	329
Number of properties found to be infested and treated—	
Major	23
Minor	169
Mice	36
Number of "block" control schemes carried out ...	10

Ten per cent. of the sewer manholes of both Braintree and Bocking sewers were test baited with negative results.

During the period covered by this report, your Council continued the free treatment of domestic premises and the treatment of business premises upon a rechargeable basis.

HOUSING

The Council completed a further 185 houses and 36 flats during the year and 20 houses were built by private enterprise.

The following tables give a summary of action taken in connection with the inspection of houses during 1953:—

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year:—

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	190
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to to be unfit for human habitation	2
(3) Number of dwelling houses, exclusive of those referred to under sub-section (2), found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	84

2. Remedy of Defects During the Year Without Service of Formal Notice:—

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	68

3. Action Under Statutory Powers:—

Housing Act, 1936:

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(b) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notice:	
By Owners	0
By Local Authority in default	0

Public Health Act, 1936:

(c) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
(d) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice	7

4.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	2
(b) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of undertakings given by owners in previous years under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.	0

Approximately one hundred houses were visited during a survey in connection with future clearance area plans. These figures are included in 1 (1) in the above table.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 75

Two owners were prosecuted under Section 75 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936, for failing to comply with notices to supply dustbins to two houses, as a result of which fines and costs were awarded against the owners.

An appeal by an owner against a notice served upon him under the same section was dismissed, as the tenant of the property involved had obtained a dustbin.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 94

An application was made by the Council to the local court for a nuisance order under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of a nuisance at a private dwelling house. The case was adjourned at the first hearing and as the necessary work was subsequently carried out, no order was made at the second hearing, although costs were awarded to the Council.

A further application by the Council to the local court for a nuisance order was dismissed as the property had been vacated prior to the date of service of the summons.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The Council are responsible for the registration of milk distributors and dairies other than dairy farms and is the licensing authority in respect of dealers and supplementary licences for Pasteurised, Sterilised and Tuberculin Tested milk.

Seven distributors and two dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949:—

Dealers Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	4
Supplementary Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	4
Dealers Licence for Pasteurised Milk	3
Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk ...	4
Dealers Licence for Sterilised Milk	1

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

The following table shows the results of samples of milk submitted for the Methylene Blue Test, and in the case of Pasteurised Milk, the Phosphatase Test:—

Class of Milk	Number Sampled	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T.T. ...	1	1	—	—	—
Pasteurised	9	9	—	9	—
T.T. Pasteurised	4	4	—	4	—

Ice Cream

During the year two local manufacturers of ice cream and fifty seven vendors were retailing from shops in the Urban District. All were registered under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. In addition, vendors registered elsewhere in the County of Essex operated in the District.

Frequent inspections of manufacturers' premises were made and periodic inspections of vendors' premises and vendors' vehicles were carried out.

Eighteen samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results:—

Manufactured in District	*Manufactured Outside District*
Seven in Provisional Grade I.	Four in Provisional Grade I.
Four in Provisional Grade II.	Two in Provisional Grade II.
Nil in Provisional Grade III.	Nil in Provisional Grade III.
One in Provisional Grade IV.	Nil in Provisional Grade IV.

In addition four samples of iced lollies were submitted for examination and all were reported upon as being satisfactory.

Meat

The Ministry of Food have continued to use two slaughterhouses in this Urban District. Meat inspection is carried out by your Inspectors

and all animals slaughtered during the year were examined by them. It was again necessary for a considerable amount of time to be spent upon inspection during evenings and occasionally week-ends throughout the year.

There is no organised system of ante-mortem inspection in the case of animals sent to the slaughterhouses through collecting and grading centres and no proper facilities exist for this purpose, but the majority of such animals are seen by the meat inspectors, either in the market or in the lairage at the slaughterhouses, and any necessary action in respect of market rejects or animals showing signs of illness is taken.

The following sets out the particulars of animals slaughtered and of inspections and condemnations during the year:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	1464	447	1341	3545	3568
Number Inspected ...	1464	447	1341	3545	3568
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned ...	2	6	5	2	55
Weight in lbs. condemned ...	833	2856	562	204	4598
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	287	104	5	40	536
Weight in lbs. condemned ...	4078	2008	25	168	2557
Percentage affected ...	19.74	24.61	0.75	1.18	16.56
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	1	—	—	1
Weight in lbs. condemned ...	392	620	—	—	129
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	76	65	1	—	122
Weight in lbs. condemned ...	2710	2449	6	—	2072
Percentage affected ...	5.26	14.76	0.075	—	3.45

The condemnation figures for the year show a continued decline in the percentage of cows and other beef animals found to be affected with tuberculosis.

The carcases of nineteen beasts were sent for refrigeration treatment after detection of cysticercus bovis lesions.

Early in the year, swine fever was confirmed in carcases at one of the slaughterhouses and action was taken under the Disease of Animals Act. Burial of the infected carcases and organs was carried out and the slaughterhouse disinfected.

Thirteen pigs killed under private licence were inspected at the slaughterhouse.

In addition to the above, the following meat, including home killed and imported meat, was inspected and condemned at butchers' shops or the Wholesale Meat Depot:—

	Shops lb.	Depot lb.
Beef	1710	12
Pork	—	444
Mutton	777	438
	2487lbs.	894lbs.

In all cases the unsound meat which was condemned was salvaged for the use for trade purposes other than for human consumption.

Horseflesh

Your inspectors carried out the inspection of horseflesh slaughtered for sale for human consumption in the Urban District, all of which was sold outside the Council's area.

Particulars of animals slaughtered and condemnations are as follows:—

Number of horses slaughtered	378
Number of horses inspected	284
Weight of offal condemned	494lbs.

Two goats slaughtered for human consumption were also inspected.

Other Foods

As a result of inspections carried out at food shops and food preparing premises in the District, the following items were condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year:

	lb.		lb.
Confectionery ...	178	Pudding and Cake Mixtures ...	56
Wet Fish ...	215	Pickles ...	59
Dried Fruit ...	182	Rice ...	40
Tinned Fruit ...	510	Sausages ...	403
Tinned Ham ...	171	Semolina ...	49
Tinned Meats ...	115	Tinned Vegetables	113
Tinned Milk ...	129	Miscellaneous ...	108
Preserves ...	63		

Total ... 2,391lbs.

Condemned food was disposed of either at the Council tip by burial or diverted where suitable to the Council pig food scheme.

Food Hygiene

The number of premises totalling 175, where food is prepared, stored or retailed is as follows:—

Hotels and licensed premises	42
Restaurants (including snack bars)	19
Works canteens	7
School canteens	9
Butchers	15
Meat manufacturing premises	2
Wet and fried fish shops	12
Bakehouses	12
Bread and cake confectioners	6
Grocers	38
Greengrocers	13

Of these numbers, shops dealing with more than one of these items are classified once.

Details regarding ice cream and milk appear under separate headings.

There is no registration of food premises under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, only registration of ice cream vendors under the Essex County Council Act, 1933.

One hundred and sixty seven visits of inspection were made during the year. In addition thirteen visits under food byelaws, one hundred and twenty three inspections of food in shops and one hundred and seven inspections of food in local markets were carried out.

In several cases it was found necessary to issue warnings concerning lack of cleanliness and other unsatisfactory conditions.

The following shows defects required to be remedied during the year:—

Inadequate supply of hot water	1
Sink and drainage defects	1
Defective sanitary accommodation	1
Internal decoration requiring cleansing and redecoration	3
Structural defects	2

Every effort has been made to maintain the interest in food hygiene among food handlers.

Following a complaint of the finding of a piece of glass in a portion of ice cream served in a local catering establishment, the Council decided to send a warning letter to the manager of the premises concerned.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

The provisions of the above Act, relating to the sampling of food and drugs, are administered by the Weights and Measures Department of the Essex County Council. The Chief Inspector of that Department has kindly supplied the following information:—

Type of Sample	*No. Taken*	*Type of Sample*	*No. Taken*
Biscuits, Chocolate	... 1	Lobster, Rick	... 1
Butter	... 2	Macaroni	... 2
Cake Mixture	... 2	Margarine	... 2
Cheese	... 1	Marzipan	... 1
Cinnamon	... 1	Meat, Luncheon	... 2
Coconut	... 1	Minced Meat	... 2
Crabmeat	... 1	Milk	... 13
Cream	... 2	Mint, Dried	... 1
Curry	... 1	Oatmeal ...	... 1
Drinks, Soft	... 2	Pepper	... 1
Fat, Cooking	... 3	Pudding Steak	... 1
Figs	... 1	Rice	... 1
Flour, Self-Raising	... 1	Sausage, Beans and Tomato Sauce	... 1
Gravy, Thick	... 1	Sausages	... 2
Ice-Cream	... 5	Spice, Mixed	... 1
Jelly Compound	... 1	Suet	... 1
Jelly Crystals	... 1	Tapioca	... 1
Jelly Lime	... 1		
Total		... **62**	

All the above samples were found to be genuine.